

THE
CHARACTERS

of

Two royall Masques.

The one of BLACKNESSE,

The other of BEAVTIE.

personated

By the most magnificent of Queenes

ANNE

Queene of great Britaine, &c.

With her honorable Ladyes,

1605. and 1608.

at White-hall:

and

Invented by BEN: IONSON. *K.*

Ouid. — *Salve festa dies, meliorq̃ reuertere semper.*

Imprinted at London for Thomas Thorp, and are to
be sold at the signe of the Tigers head
in Paules Church-yard.

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Old. — the first time, in the year 1607.

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THE QUEENES MASQVES.

*The first, of Blacknesse: personated at the
Court, at White-Hall, on the
Twelth night.*

1605.



HE honor, and splendor of these *Spectacles* was such in the performance, as could those houres haue lasted, this of mine, now, had beene a most vnprofitable worke: But (when it is the fate, euen of the greatest, and most absolute births, to need, and borrow a life of posterity) little had beene done to the study of *magnificence* in these, if presently with the rage of the people, who (as a part of greatnesse) are priuiledged by Custom, to deface their *carkasses*, the *spirits* had also perished. In dutie, therefore, to that *Majestie*, who gaue them their authoritie, and grace; and, no lesse then the most royall of predecessors, deserues eminent celebration for these solemnities: I adde this later hand, to redeeme them as well from ignorance, as enuie, two common euils, the one of *Censure*, the other of *Obluion*.

A 3

PLYNIE

The Queenes Masques.

^a *Natu. Hist.*
lib. 5. cap. 8.

^b *Poly. hist.*
cap. 40. & 43.

^c *Lib. 4. cap. 5*

^d *Descrip.*

Afric.

^e Some take it

to be the same

with Nilus,

which is by

Lucan called

Melas, signify

ing *Niger*.

Howsoever,

Plinie, in the

place aboue

noted, hath

this: *Nigri flu-*

uio eadem na-

tura, que Nilo,

calamum, papy-

rum, & eadem

gignit animan-

tes. See Solin.

aboue menti-

oned.

^f The forme

of these *Tritons*,

with their

trumpets, you

may read liue-

ly describd, in

Ouid. Metam.

lib. 1. *Cerulei*

Tritona vocat.

&c. and in

Virgil. Aeneid.

lib. 10. *Hunc*

velit immanis

Triton. & se-

quant.

^a PLINIE, ^b SOLINVS, ^c PTOLOMAEE, and of late
LEO ^d the *African*, remember vnto vs a riuer
in *Ethiopia*, famous by the name of *Niger*;
of which the people were called *Nigrita*, now
Negro's: & are the blackest nation of the world.

This ^e riuer taketh spring out of a certain *Lake*,
east-ward; & after a long race, falleth into the
westernne *Ocean*. Hence (because it was her Ma-
iesties will, to haue them *Black-mores* at first) the
invention was deriued by me, & presented thus.

First, for the *Scene*, was drawne a *Landscape*,
consisting of small woods, and here and there
a voide place filld with huntings; which falling,
an artificiall Sea was seene to shoote forth, as
if it flowed to the land, raised with waues, which
seemed to moue, and in some places the billow
to breake, as imitating that orderly disorder,
which is common in nature. In front of this Sea
were placed sixe ^f *Tritons*, in mouing, & spright-
ly actions, their vpper parts humane, saue that
their haire were blew, as pertaking of the Sea-
colour: their desinent parts, fishe, mounted
aboue their heads, and all varied in disposition.
From their backs were borne out certaine light
pieces of Taffata, as if carried by the winde, and
their Musique made out of wreathed shells. Be-
hinde these, a paire of *Sea-Maides*, for song, were
as conspicuously seated; betweene which, two
great *Sea-horses* (as bigge as the life) put forth
themselves; the one mounting aloft, & writhing
his head from the other, which seemed to sink
forwards; so intended for variation, & that the

Figure

The Queenes Masques.

Figure behind, might come of better: & vpon their backs, OCEANVS & NIGER were aduanced.

OCEANVS, presented in a humane forme, the colour of his flesh, blew; and shadowed with a robe of Sea-green; his head grey, & horned; as he is described by the *Antients*: his beard of the like mixt colour. he was gyrlonded with *Alga*, or Sea-grasse; and in his hand a *Trident*.

NIGER, in forme and colour of an *Aethiope*; his haire, and rare beard curled, shadowed with a blew, and bright mantle: his front, neck, and wrists adorned with Pearle, and crowned, with an artificiall wreath of Cane, and Paper-rush.

These induced the *Masquers*, which were twelue *Nymphs*, *Negro's*; and the daughters of NIGER; attended by so many of the OCEANIDES which were their *Light-bearers*.

The *Masquers* were placed in a great concaue shell, like mother of Pearle; curiously made to moue on those waters, and rise with the billow; the top therof was stuck with a *chen'ra* of lights, which, indented to the proportion of the shell, strooke a glorious beame vpon them, as they were seated, one aboue another: so that they were all seene, but in an extrauagant order.

On sides of the shell, did swim sixe huge *Sea-monsters*, varied in their shapes, and dispositions, bearing on their backs the twelue *Torch bearers*; who were planted there in seuerall graces; so as the backs of some were seene; some in purple, or side; others in face; & all hauing their lights burning out of *Whelks*, or *Murex* shels.

& Lucian in
PHILOSOP. AL-
sus. presents
Nilus so. Equo
flumiatilis infi-
dentem. And
Statius Nep-
tune, in Theb.
The Anti-
ents induc'd
Oceanus al-
wayes with a
Buls head:
propter im-
uentorū, a qui-
bus incitatur,
& impellitur:
vel quia Taurus
similem fremi-
tū emittat, vel
quia tanquam
Taurus furi-
bundus, in lit-
tora seratur.
Euripid. in
Oreste.
Ὠκεανὸς ὅν
ταρβόκραν
ἀγκάλαις ἑλ-
στων, κυκλῶ
χθόρα.
And Rivers
sometimes
were so call'd.
Looke Virg. de
Tib. ri. et Eri-
dano. Geor. 4.
Acenia. 8. Hor.
car. lib. 4. Ode.
14. and Eurip.
in Jone.
The Daugh-
ters of Occa-
nus, & Tethys.
See Hesiod. in
Theog. Orphe-
in Hym. and
The Virgil in Ge-
orgic.

The Queenes Masques.

The attire of the *Masquers* was alike, in all, without difference: the colours, *Azure*, and *Siluer*; but returned on the top with a scrole and antique dressing of Feathers, and Jewels interlaced with ropes of Pearle. And, for the front, care, neck, and wrists, the ornament was of the most choise and orient Pearle; best setting of from the black.

For the *Light-bearers*, *Sea-greene*, waded about the skirts with gold and siluer in their hayre loose, and flowing, gyrlanded with *Seagrasse*, and that stuck with branches of *Corall*.

These thus presented, the *Scene* behind, seemed a vast Sea (and vnited with this that flowed forth) from the termination, or *horizon* of which (being the leuell of the *State*, which was placed in the vpper end of the Hall) was drawne, by the lines of *Prospective*, the whole worke shooting downwards, from the eye; which *decorum* made it more conspicuous, and caught the eye a far of with a wandring beauty. To which was added an obscure and cloudy night-piece, that made the whole set of. So much for the bodily part. Which was of Maister Y N I G O I O N E S his designe, and act.

By this, one of the *Tritons*, with the two *Sea-Maides*, began to sing to the others lowd Musique, their voyces being a *tenor*, and two *trebles*.

SONG.

The Queenes Masques.

SONG.

Sound, sound aloud
 The welcome of the orient Floud,
 Into the West;
 Fayre, NIGER,^k sonne to great OCEANVS,
 Now honor'd, thus,
 With all his beauteous race:
^k though but black in face,
 Yet, are they bright,
 And full of life, and light.
 To proue that Beauty best,
 Which not the colour, but the feature
 Assures unto the creature.

OCEANVS.

BE silent, now the Ceremonies done.
 And NIGER, say, how comes it, louely Sonne,
 That thou, the ÆTHIOPEs Riuer, so farre East, cit.
 Art seene to fall into th' extreamest West
 Of me, the King of flouds, OCEANVS,
 And, in mine Empires heart, salute me, thus?
 My ceaselesse current, now amazed stands!
 To see thy labor, through so many lands,
 Mixe thy fresh billow, with my brackishe streames;
 And, in thy sweetnesse, stretch thy diademe,
 To these farre distant, and un-equall'd skies
 This squared Circle of cœlestiall bodies:

B

NIGER.

ger, from the Ocean, (beside the fable of Alphæus, and that, to which Virgil alludes of Arethusa in his 10. Eclog. Sic tibi, cum fluctus subterlabere Sicanos, Doris amara suam non intermisceat undam) examples of Nilus, Iordan, and others, whereof see Nican. lib. 1. de flumin. and Plut. in vita Sylla. euen of this our riuer (as some thinke) by the name of Melas,

^k All Riuers
 are sayd to be
 the sonnes of
 the Ocean: for,
 as the Anti-
 ents thought,
 out of the va-
 pours, exhaled
 by the heate
 of the Sunne,
 Riuers, and
 Fountaines
 were begot-
 ten. And both
 by Orph. in
 Hymn. and Ho-
 mer Iliad. &
 Oceanus is ce-
 lebrated tan-
 quam Pater, &
 origo dÿs, &
 rebus, quia ni-
 hil sine hume-
 statione nasci-
 tur, aut puerif-

^l There wants
 not incough, in
 nature, to au-
 thorise this
 part of our
 fiction, in se-
 perating Ni-

The Queenes Masques.

NIGER.

Diuine OCEANVS, tis not strange at all,
That (since the immortal soules of creatures mortal,
Mixe with their bodies, yet reserue for euer
A powre of seperation) I should seuer fixed)
My fresh streames, from thy brackish (like things
Though, with thy powerful saltnes, thus far mixed.
„Vertue, though chain'd to earth, will still line free,
„And Hell it selfe must yeeld to industry.

OCEANVS.

But, what's the end of thy Herculean labors,
Extended to these calme, and blessed shores?

NIGER.

To do a kind, and carefull Fathers part,
In satisfiing euery pensiue heart
Of these my Daughters, my most loued birth:
Who though they were the first form'd Dames of
And in whose sparckling, and refulgent eyes, (earth,
The glorious Sunne did still delight to rise,
Though he (the best Iudge, and most formall Cause
Of all Dames beauties) in their firme hewes, drawes
Signes of his feruentst Loue, and thereby shewes
That, in their black, the perfectst beauty growes;
Since the fix't colour of their curled haire,
(which is the highest grace of dames most faire)

*Read Diod.
Sicul. lib. 3. It
is a coniec-
ture of the old
Ethnicks, that
they, which
dwell vnder
the South,
were the first
begotten of
the earth.

No.

The Queenes Malques.

No cares, no age can change, or there display
 The fearefull tincture of abhorred Gray;
 Since Death hir selfe (hir selfe being pale & blew)
 Can neuer alter their most faithfull hew;
 All which are arguments, to proue, how far
 Their beauties conquer, in great Beauties warre;
 And more, how neere Diuinity they be,
 That stand from passion, or decay so free.
 Yet, since the fabulous voyces of some few
 Poore brain-sicke men, stil'd Poets, here with you,
 Haue, with such enuy of their graces, sung
 The painted Beauties, other Empires sprung;
 Letting their loose, and winged fictions fly
 To infect all clymates, yea our purity;
 As of one ⁿPHAETON, that fir'd the world
 And, that, before his heedles flames were hurl'd
 About the Globe, the Ethiopes were as faire,
 As other Dames; now blacke, with blacke dispaire:
 And in respect of their complexion's chang'd,
 Are each where, since, for^o luskles creatures rang'd.
 Which, when my Daughters heard, (as women are
 Most iealous of their beauties) feare, and care
 Possess'd them whole; yea, and beleeuing ^p them,
 They wept such ceasles teares, into my streame,
 That it hath, thus far, ouerflow'd his shore
 To seeke them patience: who haue since, ere more
 As the Sunne riseth, ^qcharg'd his burning throne
 With volleys of reuilings; cause he shone (fires
 On their scorch'd cheekes, with such intemperate
 And other Dames, made Queenes of all desires.

ⁿNotissima fabula, Ouid.

Met. lib. 2.

^oAlluding to that of Juuenall, Satir. 5.

Et cui per medium nolis occurrere nocentem.

^pThe Poets.

^qA custome of the Ethiopes, notable in Herod. and Di-
 od. Sic. See Plin-
 nie, Nat. Hist.

To lib. 5, cap. 8.

The Queenes Masques.

To frustrate which strange error, oft, I sought,
(Though most in vaine, against a settled thought
As womens are) till they confirm'd at length
By miracle, what I, with so much strength
Of argument resisted; els they fain'd:
For in the Lake, where their first spring they gain'd,
As they sate, cooling their soft Limmes, one night,
Appear'd a Face, all circumfus'd with light;
(And sure they saw't, for *Æthiopes*' neuer dreame)
Wherein they might decipher through the streame,
These words.

Plin, ibid.

*Consult with
Tacitus, in vita
Agric. and the
Paneg. ad
Constant.*

That they a Land must forthwith seeke,
Whose termination (of the Greeke)
Sounds T A N I A; where bright Sol, that heat
Their blouds, doth neuer ' rise, or set,
But in his Iourney passeth by,
And leaues that Clymat of the sky,
To comfort of a greater Light,
Who formes all beauty, with his sight.

In search of this, haue we three Princedomes past;
That speake out Tania, in their accents last;
Blacke Mauritania, first; and secondly,
Swarth Lusitania; next, we did descry
Rich Aquitania: and, yet, cannot find
The place vnto these longing Nymphes design'd.
Instruct, and dayde me, great OCEANVS,
What Land is this, that now appears to vs?

OCE.

The Queenes Masques.

OCEANVS.

*This Land, that lifts into the temperate Ayre
His snowy cliffe, is Albion the fayre;
So call'd of Neptune's Son, who ruleth here: (yeare)
For whose deare guard, my selfe, (foure thousand
Since old Deucalion's daies, haue walk'd the round
About his Empire, proud, to see him crown'd
Above my waues.*

Orpheus in
his Argonaut.
calls it *Albion*.
Alluding to
that rite of
stiling Princes,
after the name
of their
Princelomes:

so is he still
Albion, and
Neptune's
sonne that
gouernes. As
also his being
deare to Nep-
tune, in be-
ing to em-
brac'd by
him.

At this, the *Moone* was discovered in the vpper part of the house, triumphant in a *Siluer* throne, made in figure of a *Pyramis*. Her garments *White*, and *Siluer*, the dressing of her head antique; & crown'd with a *Luminarie*, or *Sphere* of light: which striking on the clouds, and heightned with *Siluer*, reflected as naturall clouds do by the splendor of the *Moone*. The Heauen, about her, was vaulted with blew filke, and set with Starres of *Siluer* which had in them their seuerall lights burning. The suddaine sight of which, made *NIGER* to interrupt *OCEANVS*, with this present passion.

NIGER.

— O see, our *siluer* Starre!
Whose pure, auspicious light greetes vs, thus farre!
Great *Aethiopia*, Goddesse of our shore,
Since, with particular worshippe we adore
Thy generall brightnesse, let particular grace
Shyne on my zealous Daughters: Shew the place,

The *Aethio-*
pians wor-
shipd the
Moone, by that
surname. See
Steph. uropi
πρόλειον in voce
ΑΙΘΙΟΝΙ-
ΟΝ and his
reasons.

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*which, long, their Longings vrdg'd their eyes to see.
Beautifie them, which long haue Deified thee.*

ÆTHIOPIA.

NIGER, be glad: Resume thy native cheare.
Thy Daughters labors haue their period here,
And so thy errors. I was that bright Face
Reflected by the Lake, in which thy Race
Read mysticke lines; (which skill PITHAGORAS
First taught to men, by a reuerberate glasse)
This blessed Isle doth with that TANIA end,
Which there they saw inscrib'd, and shall extend
Wish'd satisfaction to their best desires.
BRITANIA, which the triple world admires,
This Isle hath now recovered for her name; (fame
Where raigne those Beauties, that with so much
The sacred MUSES Sonnes haue honored,
And from bright HESPERVS to EOUS spread,
With that great name BRITANIA, this blest Isle
Hath wonne her ancient dignitie, and stile,
A World, diuided from the world: and tri'd
The abstract of it, in his generall pride.
For were the World, with all his wealth, a Ring,
BRITANIA (whose new name makes all tongues sing)
Might be a Diamant worthy to inchase it,
Rul'd by a SVNNE, that to this height doth grace it:
Whose Beames shine day, and night, and are of force
To blanche an ÆTHIOPE, and reuiue a COR's.
His light scientiall is, and (past mere nature)

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Can salve the rude defects of euery creature,
 Call forth thy honor'd Daughters, then;
 And let them, 'fore the Brittain men,
 Indent the Land, with those pure traces
 They flow with, in their native graces.
 Inuite them, boldly, to the shore,
 Their Beauties shalbe scorcht no more:
 This Sunne is temperate, and refines
 All things, on which his radiance shines.

Here the Tritons sounded, & they daunced on
 shore, euery couple (as they aduanced) seuerally
 presenting their Fans: in one of which were in-
 scribed their mixt Names, in the other a mute
 Hieroglyphick, expressing their mixed quallities.
 Which manner of Symbole I rather chose, then
 Imprese, as well for strangeness, as relishing of
 antiquity, and more applying to that originall
 doctrine of sculpture, which the Egyptians are Diod. Sicul.
 said, first, to haue brought from the Ethiopians. Herod.

The Names.

The Symboles.

The Queene.	1	{ EUPHORIS.	1	{ A golden Tree, la-
Co: of Bedford.		{ AGLAIA.		{ den with fruit.
La: Herbert.	2	{ DIAPHANE.	2	{ The figure Isocae-
Co: of Derby.		{ EVCAMPSE.		{ dron of cristall.
La: Riche.	3	{ OCYTE.	3	{ A paire of naked
Co: of Suffolke		{ KATHARE.		{ feet, in a Riuer.

La:

The Queenes Masques.

La: Beuill.	4	{ NOTIS.	4	{ The Salamander
La: Effingham.		{ PSYCHROTE.		{ simple.
La: El: Howard.	5	{ GLYCYTE.	5	{ A clowd full of
La: Sus: Vere.		{ MALACIA.		{ raine, dropping.
La: Wroth.	6	{ BARYTE.	6	{ An vrne' spheard
La: Walsingham		{ PERIPHERE.		{ with wine.

The names of the OCEANIAE
were.

Hesiod. in
Theog.

DORIS.	CYDIPPE.	BEROE.	IANTHE.
PETRAEA.	GLAVCE.	ACASTE.	LYCORYS.
OCYRHOB.	TYCHE.	CLYTIA.	PLEXAVRE.

Their owne single Daunce ended, as they were
about to make choice of their Men: One, from
the Sea, was heard to call 'hem with this *charme*,
sung by a *tenor* voyce.

SONG.

Come away, come away,
We grow iealous of your stay:
If you do not stop your eare,
we shall haue more cause to feare
Syrens of the land, then they
To doubt the Syrens of the Sea.

Here they daunc'd with their men, seuerall
measures, and *corranto's*. All which ended, they
were

The Queenes Masques.

were againe accited to sea, with a *Song* of two *Trebles*, whose cadences were iterated by a double *Eccho*, from seuerall parts of the Land.

SONG.

Dughters of the subtle Flood,
Do not let Earth longer intertaine you;
1. Ecch. & Let Earth longer intertaine you.
2. Ecch. & Longer intertaine you.

'Tis to them, inough of good,
That you giue this litle hope, to gaine you
1. Ecch. & Giue this litle, hope to gaine you.
2. Ecch. & Little hope, to gaine you.

If they loue,
You shall quickly see,
For when to flight you mooue,
They'll follow you, the more you flee
1. Ecch. & follow you, the more you flee.
2. Ecch. & The more you flee.

If not, impute it each to others matter;
They are but Earth, & what you vow'd was Water.
1. Ecch: but earth } (was Water.
2. Ecch: earth } 1. Ecch. And what you vow'd
2. Ecch. You vow'd was Water.



ETHI.

The Queenes Masques.

AETHIOPIA.

INough, bright Nymphes, the night growes old,
And we are greiv'd, we can not hold
You longer light: But comfort take.
Your Father, onely, to the Lake,
Shall make returne: Your selues, with feasts,
Must here remaine the Ocean's guests.
Nor shall this wayle, the Sunne hath cast
Aboue your bloud, more Summers last.
For which, you shall obserue these rites.
Thirteene times thrise, on thirteene nightes,
(So often as I fill my Sphære
With glorious light, throughout the yeare)
You shall (when all things els do sleepe
Saue your chaste thoughts) with reuerence, sleepe
Your bodies in that purer brine,
And wholsome dew call'd Ros-marine:
Then with that soft, and gentler some,
Of which the Ocean, yet, yeelds some,
Whereof bright Venus, Beauties Queene,
Is sayd to haue begotten beene,
You shall your gentler limmes ore-lauē,
And for your paynes, perfection haue.
So that, this night, the yeare gone round,
You do againe salute this ground;
And, in the beames of yond bright Sunne,
Your faces dry, and all is done.

At which in a Daunce they returned to the
Sea, where they tooke their Shell; and, with this
full Song, went out.

SONG.

The Queenes Masques.

SONG.

Now Dian, with her burning face,
Declines apace:

By which our Waters know
To ebbe, that late did flow.

Backe Seas, backe Nymphes; but, with a forward
Keepe still, your reuerence to the place: (grace,
And shout with ioy of fauor, you haue wonne,
in sight of Albion, Neptunes Sonne.

So ended the first *Masque*, which (beside the
singular grace of *Musicke* and *Dauces*) had that
successe in the nobility of performance; as no-
thing needes to the illustration, but the memo-
ry by whome it was personated.

C: THE

THE SECOND MASQUE.

which was of Beauty; was presented in the same Court, at White-Hall, on the Sunday night, after the twelfth Night. 1608.

TWO yeares being now past, that her *Maie-
sty* had intermitted these delights, and the
third almost come; it was her *Highnesse* plea-
sure againe to glorifie the *Court*, & command
that I should thinke on some fit presentment,
which should answer the former, still keeping
thē the same persons, the Daughters of *NIGER*,
but their beauties varied, according to promise,
and their time of absence excus'd, with foure
more added to their Number.

— To which limitts, when I had apted my in-
vention, and being to bring newes of them, frō
the Sea, I induc'd *Boreas*, one of the windes, as
my fittest Messenger; presenting him thus.

In a robe of *Russet*, and *White* mixt, full, and
bagg'd: his haire, and beard rough: and horrid;
his wings gray, and ful of snow, and icycles. His
mantle borne from him with wires, & in seuerall
puffes; his feet^a ending in serpents tayles; and in
his hand a leaueles *Branch*, laden with icycles.

^a So *Paus.* in
Eliacis. reports
him to haue, as
he was carued
in *arcā Cipselli*.

^b See, *Iconolog.*
di Cesare Ripa.

But before, in midst of the *Hall*; to keepe the
State of the feast, and season; I had placed^b *Ia-
nuary*, in a throne of *Siluer*; His robe of *Asb-
colour*

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cullor long, fringed with *Siluer*; a white mantle:
His wings white, and his buskins: In his hand a
laurell bough, vpon his head an *Anademe* of *lau-*
rell, fronted with the signe *Aquarius*, and the
Character. Who as *Boreas* blusterd forth, dis-
couer'd himselfe.

BOREAS.

(Sonnet)

W^Hich, among these is Albion, Neptunes

IANVARIVS.

W^Hat ignorance dares make that question?
Would any aske, who Mars were, in the wars?
Or, which is Hesperus, among the starres?
Of the bright Planets, which is Sol? Or can
A doubt arise, 'mong creatures, which is man?
Behold, whose eyes do dart Promethean fire
Throughout this all; whose precepts do inspire
The rest with duty; yet commanding, cheare:
And are obeyed, more with loue, then feare.

BOREAS.

W^Hat Power art thou, that thus informest me?

IANVARIVS.

D^Ost thou not know me? I, to well, know thee

C₃

By

The Queenes Masques.

By thy rude voyce, that doth so hoarcely blow,
 Thy haire, thy beard, thy wings, ore-hit d with snow,
 Thy Serpent feet, to be that rough North-winde,
 Boreas, that, to my raigne, art still unkinde.
 I am the Prince of Months, call'd Ianuary;
 Because by me ^b Ianus the yeare doth vary,
 Shutting up warres, proclayming peace, & feasts,
 Freedome, & triumphes: making Kings his guests.

^a Ouid Metam.
 lib. 6. neere the
 end see. -- hor-
 ridus ira, que
 solita est illi,
 nimiumq; do-
 mestica, vento.
 &c.

^b See the offi-
 ces, and power
 of Ianus. Ouid.
 Fast. 1.

BOREAS.

To thee then, thus, & by thee, to that King,
 That doth thee present honors, do I bring
 Present remembrance of twelue Æthiope Dames:
 Who; guided hither by the Moones bright flames,
 To see his brighter light, were to the Sea
 Enioyn'd againe and (thence assign'd a day
 For their returne) were in the waves to leaue
 Their blacknesse, and true beauty to receaue.

IANVARIVS.

^c Two mari-
 ages; the one
 of the Earle of
 Essex. 1606.
 the other of
 the Lord Hay.
 1607.

Which they receau'd, but broke their day: & yet
 Haue not return'd a look of grace for it,
 Shewing a course, and most unfit neglect.
 Twise haue I come, in pompe here, to expect
 Their presence; Twise deluded, haue bene faine
 With ^c other rites my Feasts to intertayne:
 And, now the Third time, turn'd about the yeare
 Since

The Queenes Masques.

Since they were look'd for; and, yet, are not here.

BOREAS.

[*T*was nor Will, nor Sloth, that caus'd theyr stay;
For they were all prepared by theyr day,
And, with religion, forward on theyr way:
When PROTEVS, & the gray Prophet of the Sea,
Met them, and made report, how other foure
Of their blacke kind, (whereof theyr Sire had store)
Faithfull to that great wonder, so late done
Vpon theyr Sisters, by bright Albion,
Had followed them to seeke BRITANIA forth,
And there, to hope like fauor, as like worth.
Which Night envuy'd, as done^e in her despight,
And (mad to see an *Ethiope* wash'd white)
Thought to preuent in these, least men should deeme
Her coulour, if thus chang'd, of small esteeme.
And so, by mallice, and her magicke, to st
The Nymphes at Sea, as they were almost lost,
Till, on an Iland, they by chance arriv'd,
Thatⁱ floted in the mayne; where, yet, she had giu'd
Them so, in charmes of darknes, as no might (sight
Should loose them thence, but theyr chang'd Sisters
Whereat the Twelve (in piety mou'd, & kind)
Streight, put themselves in act, the place to finde;
Which was the Nights sole trust they so will do,
That she, with labor, might confound them too.
For, ever since, with error hath she held

Them

^d Read his de-
scription, with
Virg. Geor. 4.
Est in Carpa-
thio Neptuni
gurgite vates,
Ceruleus Pro-
teus.

^e Because they
were before
of her com-
plexion.

^f To giue au-
thority to this
part of our fic-
tion, Plinie
hath a chap.

94. of his 3.
booke, Nat.
Hist. de Insulis
fluctuantibus.

& Card. lib. 1.
de rerum vari-
et. Cap. vi. re-
ports one, to
be in his time
knowne, in
the Lake of
Loumond, in
Scotland. to let
passe that of
Delos. &c.

The Queenes Masques.

^a The daughter of Erectheus, King of Athens, whom Boreas rauish'd away, into Thrace, as shee was playing with other virgins by the flood *Flissus*: or (as some will) by the Fountaine *Cephisus*.

*Them wandring in the Ocean, and so quell'd
Their hopes beneath their toyle, as (desperat now
Of any least successe vnto their vow,
Nor knowing to returne to expresse the grace,
Wherewith they labor to this Prince, and place)
One of them, meeting me at Sea, did pray,
That for the loue of my ORYTHIA,
(whose very name did heate my frosty brest,
And make me shake my Snow-fill'd wings, & crest)
To beare this sad report I would be wonne,
And frame their iust excuse: which here I haue*

(done.

^b The violence of Boreas Ouid excellently describes in the place about quoted.

*Hinc nubi pel-
lo, hinc freta
concussio, nodo-
saq. robora ver-
to, Induroq. ni-
ues, et terras
grandine pulso.*

^c According to that of Vir.

*Denuntiat
ignis Eu-*

ros.

IANVARIVS.

Would thou hadst not begun, untuckie Winde,
That neuer yet blewst goodnes to mankind;
But with thy bitter, and too piercing breath,
Strik'st horrors through the ayre, as sharp as death.

Here a second Wind came in, *VVLTVRNVS*, in
a blew coulored robe & mantle, pufft as the
former, but somewhat sweeter; his face blacke,
and on his head a red *Sunne*, shewing he came
from the East: his winges of seuerall coullors;
his buskins white, and wrought with Gold.

VVLTVRNVS.

ALL horrors vanish, and all name of Death,
Bee all things here as calme as is my breath.

A

The Queenes Masques.

A gentler wind, Vulturnus, brings you newes
The Ile is found, & that the Nymphs now use
Their rest, & ioy. The Nights black charmes are flowne.
For, being made unto their Goddesse knowne,
Bright Ethiopia, the Siluer Moone,
As she was ^a Hecate, she brake them soone:
And now by vertue of their light, and grace,
The glorious Isle, wherein they rest, takes place
Of all the earth for Beauty. ^b There, their Queen
Hath rayed them a Throne, that still is seene
To turne unto the motion of the world;
Wherein they sit, and are, like Heauen, whirld
About the Earth; whilst, to them contrary,
(Following those nobler torches of the Sky)
A world of little Loues, and chaste Desires,
Do light their beauties, with still mouing fires.
And who to Heauens consent can better moue,
Then those that are so like it, Beauty and Loue?
Hether, as to theyr new Elysium,
The spirits of the antique Greekes are come,
Poets, and Singers, Linus, Orpheus, all
That haue excell'd in ^c knowledge musicall;
Where, set in Arbors made of myrtle, and gold,
They liue, againe, these Beautyes to behold.
And thence, in flowry mazes walking forth
Sing hymnes in celebration of their worth. (hight
whilst, to theyr Songs, two Fountaynes flow, one
Of lasting Youth, the other chaste Delight,
That at the closes, from theyr bottomes spring,
And strike the Ayre to eccho what they sing.

^a She is call'd
Πρωτοπ Εχά-
τη, by Eurip.
in Helena.
which is Luci-
fera, to which
name we here
presently al-
lude.

^b For the more
full and cleare
vnderstanding
of that which
followes, haue
recourse to
the succeeding
pages; where
the Scene pre-
sents it selfe.

^c So Terence.
and the Anti-
ens call'd Poe-
sy, Artem musi-
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D

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^c So Terence.
and the Anti-
ents call'd Pse-
sy, Artem mas-
sam.

The Queenes Masques.

*But, why do I describe what all must see?
By this time, nere thy coast, they floating be;
For, so their vertuous Goddesse, the chaste Moone,
Told them, the Fate of th' Iland should, & soone
Would fixe it selfe vnto thy continent,
As being the place, by Destiny fore-ment,
Where they should flow forth, drest in her attyres:
And, that the influence of those holy fires,
(First rapt from hence) being multiplied vpon
The other soure, should make their Beauties one.
Which now expect to see, great Neptunes Sonne,
And loue the miracle, which thy selfe hast done.*

Here, a Curtine was drawne (in which the Night was painted.) and the Scene discover'd. which (because the former was *marine*, and these, yet of necessity, to come from the Sea) I deuisd, should bee an *Iland*, floting on a calme water. In the middst therof was a Seate of state, call'd the *Throne of Beautie*, erected: diuided into eight *Squares*, and distinguish'd by so many *Ionick pilasters*. In these *Squares* the *sixteene Masquers* were plac'd by couples: behind them, in the center of the *Throne* was a tralucient *Pillar*, shining with seuerall colour'd lights, that reflected on their backs. From the top of which *Pillar* went seuerall arches to the *Pilasters*, that sustained the roofe of the *Throne*, which was likewise adorn'd with lights, and gyrlonds; And betweene the *Pilasters*, in front, little *Cupids* in flying

The Queenes Masques.

flying posture, wauing of wreaths, and lights, bore vp the *Coronice*: ouer which were placed eight *Figures*, representing the *Elements* of *Beauty*; which aduanced vpon the *Ionick*, and being *females*, had the *Corinthian* order. The first was

SPLENDOR.

In a robe of *flame* colour, naked breasted; her bright hayre loose flowing: She was drawne in a circle of clowdes, her face, and body breaking through; and in her hand a branch, with two *Roses*, a *white*, and a *red*. The next to her was

The *Rose* is call'd elegantly, by *Achil.* *Tat. lib. 2.* *οὐρανὸν ἄλλοι.* *οὐρανὸν*, the splendour of *Plants*, and is euery where taken for the *Hieroglyphick* of *Splendour*.

SERENITAS.

In a garment of bright *skye*-colour, a long tresse, & waued with a vayle of diuers colours, such as the golden skie some-times shewes: vpon her head a cleare, and faire *Sunne* shining, with rayes of gold striking downe to the feete of the figure. In her hand a *Christall*, cut with feuerall angles, and shadow'd with diuerse colours, as caus'd by refraction. The third

As this of *Serenity*, applying to the *Opticks* reason of the *Rainbowe*, and the *Mythologists* making her the *Daughter* of *Eletra*.

GERMINATIO.

In greene; with a *Zone* of golde about her

The Queenes Masques.

*So Hor. lib. 1.
O. 1. 4. makes it
the ensigne of
the Spring.*

*Nunc dect aut
viridi nitidum
caput impedire
myrto, aut fla-
re, terra quem
ferunt soluta.*

&c.

*They are e-
very where
the tokens of
gladnesse, at al
feasts, sports.*

*The signe of
temperature,
as also her
girlond mixed
of the four
Seasons.*

*Pearles, with
the auncients,
were the spe-
ciall Hierogly-
phicks of loue-
linesse, in qui-
bus nitor tan-
tum & leuor
expetebantur.*

*So was the
Lilly, of which
the most deli-
cate City of
the Persians
was called Su-
sa: signifying
that kind of
flower, in
their tongue,*

her Waist, crowned with *Myrtle*, her haire like-
wise flowing, but not of so bright a colour: In
her hand, a branch of *Myrtle*. Her socks of
greene, and *Gold*. The fourth was

LAETITIA.

IN a Vesture of diuerse colours, and all sorts
of flowers embroidered thereon. Her socks
so fitted. A *Gyrland* of flowers in her hand;
her eyes turning vp, and smiling, her haire
flowing, and stuck with flowers. The fift

TEMPERIES.

IN a garment of *Gold*, *Siluer*, and colours wea-
ued: In one hand shee held a *burning Steele*,
in the other, an *Vrne* with water. On her head
a gyrland of flowers, *Corne*, *Vine-leaues*, and
Oliue branches, enter-wouen. Her socks, as
her garment. The sixth

VENUSTAS.

IN a *Siluer* robe, with a thinne subtle vaile ouer
her haire, and it: *Pearle* about her neck, and
forhead. Her socks wrought with pearle. In
her hand shee bore seuerall colour'd *Lillies*.

The seauenth was

DIGNI.

The Queenes Masques

DIGNITAS.

IN a dressing of State, the haire bound vp with fillers of gold, the Garments rich, and set with iewells, and gold; likewise her buskins, and in her hand a ^y Golden rod. The eight ^y The signe, of honor, & dignity.

PERFECTIO.

IN a Vesture of pure Gold, a wreath of Gold vp on her head. About her body the ^z Zodiack, with the Signes; In her hand a Compasse of gold, drawing a circle. ^z Both that, & the Compasse are known enignes of perfection.

On the top of all the Throne, (as being made out of all these) stood

HARMONIA.

A Personage, whose dressing had something of al the others, & had her robe painted full of Figures. Her head was compass'd with a crowne of Gold, hauing in it ^a seauen iewells equally set. In her hand a Lyra, wheron she rested. ^a She is so describ'd in *Iconolog. di Cesare Ripa*, his reason of ⁷ iewells, in the crowne, alludes to *Pythagoras* his comment, with *Mac. 15*.

This was the Ornament of the Throne. The ascent to which, consisting of sixe steppes, was couered with a ^b multitude of Cupids (chosen out of the best, and most ingenuous youth of the Kingdome, noble, and others) that were the ² Som. Sci. of the seauen Planets and their Spheares. ^b The inducing of many Cupids w^{ts} not defence,

D₃

Torch-

with the best and most receiv'd of the *Antients*, besides *Prop. Stati. Claud. Sido. Apoll* especially *Phil. in Icon. Amor*, whome I haue particularly followed, in this description,

The Queenes Masques.

c They were
the notes of
Louelinesse and
sacred to *Ve-*
nus. See *Phil.*
in that place,
mentiond.
d Of youth.
e Of pleasure.

Torch-bearers; and all armed, with *Bowes*, *Qui-*
uers, *Winges*, and other *Ensignes* of *Loue*. On
the sides of the *Throne*, were curious, and ele-
gant *Arbors* appointed: & behind, in the back
part of the *Ile*, a *Groue*, of growne trees laden
with golden fruit, which other little *Cupids*
plucked, and threw each at other, whilst on the
ground ^c *Leuerets* pick'd vp the bruised apples,
and left them halfe eaten. The Ground-plat of
the whole was a subtile indented *Maze*: And, in
the two formost angles, were two *Fountaines*,
that ranne continually, the one ^d *Hebe's*, the
other ^e *Hedone's*: In the *Arbors*, were plac'd the
Musitians, who represented the *Shades* of the
old *Poets*, & were attir'd in a *Priest*-like habit of
Crimson, and *Purple*, with *Laurell* gyrlonds.

The colours of the *Masquers* were varied;
the one halfe in *Orange-tawny*, and *Siluer*: the o-
ther in *Sea-green*, and *Siluer*. The bodies and
short skirts of *White*, and *Gold*, to both.

The habite, and dressing (for the fashion) wa-
most curious, and so exceeding in riches, as the
Throne wheron they sat, seem'd to be a Mine of
light, stroake frō their iewells, & their garmēts.

This *Throne*, (as the whole *Iland* mou'd for-
ward, on the water,) had a circular motion of it
owne, imitating that which we cal *Motum mun-*
di, from the *East* to the *West*, or the right to the
left side. For so *Hom. Ilia. M.* vnderstāds by *ἀπὸ τοῦ*,
Orientalia mundi: by *ἀπὸ τοῦ*, *Occidental*. The
steps

The Queenes Masques.

steps, wheron the *Cupids* sate, had a motion contrary, with *Analogy, ad motum Planetarum*, from the *West* to the *East*: both which turned with their seuerall lights. And with these three varied *Motions*, at once, the whole *Scene* shot it selfe to the Land.

Above which, the *Moone* was seene in a *Siluer* Chariot, drawne by *Virgins*, to ride in the cloudes, and hold them greater light: with the *Signe Scorpio*, and the *Character*, plac'd before her.

The order of this *Scene* was carefully, and ingeniously dispos'd; and as happily put in act (for the *Motions*) by the *Kings* Master Carpenter. The Paynters, I must needes say, (not to belie them) lent small colour to any, to attribute much of the spirit of these things to their pen'cills. But that must not bee imputed a crime either to the inuention, or designe.

Here the loude *Musique* ceas'd; and the *Musitians*, which were placed in the *Arbors*, came forth through the *Mazes*, to the other Land: singing this full *Song*, iterated in the closes by two *Eccho's*, rising out of the Fountaines.

SONG.

When Loue, at first, did moone
From out of Chaos, brightned
So was the world, and lightned,

So is he faind
by *Orpheus*, to
haue appear'd
first of all the
Gods: awakend
by *Lotho*, and
is therefore
call'd *Phanes*,
both by him,
& *Lactantius*.

As

The Queenes Masques.

§ An agreeing opinion, both with Diuines and Philosophers, that the great Artificer in loue with his own Idea, did, therefore, frame the world.

h Alluding to his name of *Himerus*, and his signification in the name, which is *Desiderium post aspectum*: and more then *Eros*, which is only *Cupido, ex aspectu amare*.

As now! Ecch. As now! Ecch. As now!

*Teeld Night, then, to the light,
As Blacknesse hath to Beauty;
Which is but the same duety.*

*It was § for Beauty, that the World was made,
And where shee raignes, h Loues lights admit no
Ecch. Loues lights admit no shade. (Shade.*

Ecch. Admit no shade.

Which ended, *Vulturnus* the Wind, spake to the Riuer *Thamesis* that lay along betweene the shores, leaning vpon his Vrne (that flow'd with water,) and crown'd with flowers; with a blew cloth of *Siluer* robe about him: and was perforated by Maister THOMAS GILES, who made the Daunces.

VULTURNVS.

Rise aged Thames, and by the hand
Receiue these Nymphes, within the land:
And, in those curious Squares, and Rounds,
Wherewith thou flow'st betwixt the ground,
Of fruitfull Kent, and Essex faire,
That lend thee gyrlands for thy haire;
Instruct their siluer feete to tread,
Whilst we, againe to sea, are fled.

With which the Windes departed; and the Riuer receiued them into the Land, by couples & foures, their Cupids comming before them.
Their

The Queenes Masques.

and ordered for their Persons were.

The QUEENE.	La. ANNE WINTER.
La. ARABELLA.	La. WINSORE.
Co. of ARVNDEN.	La. ANNE CLIFFORD.
Co. of DERRY.	La. MARY NEVILL.
Co. of BEDFORD.	La. ELIZ. HATTON.
Co. of MONTGOMERY.	La. ELIZ. GARRARD.
La. ELIZ. GILFORD.	La. CHICHESTER.
La. KAT. PETER.	La. WALSHINGHAM.

The dauncing forth a most curious *Daunce*, full of excellent deuice, and change, ended it in the figure of a *Dismant*, and so, standing still, were by the *Musitians*, with a second *Song* (sung by a loud *Tenor*) celebrated.

SONG.

SO Beauty on the waters stood,
 (when Loue hadⁱ seuer'd earth from flood!
 So when he parted ayre from fire,
 He did with concord all inspire!
 And then a Motion he them taught,
 That elder then himselfe was thought.
 Which thought was, yet, ^k the child of earth,
 For Loue is elder then his birth.

ⁱ As, in the
 Creation, he
 is sayd, by the
 Antients, to
 haue done.

^k That is,
 borne since
 the world,
 and, out of
 those duller
 apprehensions
 that did not
 thinke he was
 as before,

The *Song* ended; they *Daunced* forth their second *Daunce*, more subtle, and full of change, then the former; and so exquisitely performed;

E

The Queenes Masques.

as the Kings *Maiestie* incited first (by his owne liking, to that which all others, there present, wish'd) requir'd them both againe, after some time of dauncing with the *Lords*. Which time, to giue them respite, was intermitted with Song; first by a *treble* voyce, in this manner.

SONG

IF all these Cupids, now, were blind.
As is^a their wanton Brother;
Or play should put it in their mind
To shoot at one another:
What pretty battayle they would make
If they their objects should mistake
And each one wound his Mother!

Which was seconded by another *treble*; thus.

SONG.

IT was no politie of Court,
Albee the place were charmed,
To let in earnest, or in sport,
So many Loues in, armed.
For say, the Dames should, with their eyes,
Vpon the hearts, here, meane surprizes,
Were not the men like harmed?

To which a *tenor* answerd.

SONG.

YEs, were the Loues or false, or straying;
Or Beauties not their beauty waighing:
But

* I make these different from him, which they faine call *cum cupidinē*, or *petulantem*. as I expresse beneath in the third song. these being chaste *Loues*, that attend a more diuine beauty, then that of *Loues* commune parent.

The Queenes Masques.

*But here, no such deceit is mix'd,
Their flames are pure, their eyes are fix'd:
They do not warre, with different darts,
But strike a musique of like hearts.*

After which Songs, they daunc'd Galliards, & Coranto's; and with those excellent Graces, that the Musique, appointed to celebrate them, shew'd it could be silent no longer: but by the first Tenor, admir'd them thus.

SONG.

HAd those, that dwell in error foule,
And hold^a that women haue no soule,
But seene these moue; They would haue, then
Sayd, Women were the soules of Men.

*So they do moue each heart, and eye
With the^b Worlds soule, true Harmonie.*

^b There hath
beene such a
prophane Pa-
radoxe publi-
shed.

^c The Plato-
nicks opinion.
See also Mac.
lib. 1. and 2.
Som. Scip.

HEere, they daunc'd a third most elegant,
and curious Daunce, and not to be descri-
b'd againe, by any art, but that of their owne
footing: which, ending in the figure, that was
to produce the fourth, Iannary from his state
saluted them, thus,

I ANVARIUS.

YOur grace is great, as is your Beauty, Dames;
Inough my Feasts haue prou'd your thankfull flames.
Now vse your Seate: that seate which was, before,
Thought straying, uncertayne, floting to each shore,
And to whose hauing^e euery Clime layd clayme,
Each Land, and Nation urged as the ayne

^e For what
Country is it
thinks not her
owne beauty
fayrest, yet?

The Queenes Masques.

*Of their ambition, Beauties perfect Throne,
Now made peculiar, to this place, alone;
And that, by impulsion of your destinies,
And his attractive beames, that lights these Skies:
Who (though with th' Ocean compass'd) neuer wets
His hayre therein, nor weares a beame that sets.*

*Long may his light adorne these happy rites
As I renew them; and your gracious sights
Enioy that happinesse, eu'en to envy; as when
Beauty, at large, brake forth, and conquer'd men.*

*At which they daunc'd theyr last dance, into
their Throne againe: and that turning, the
Scene clos'd with this full Song.*

SONG.

S Till turne, and imitate the Heauen
In motion swift and eu'en;

And as his Planets goe,

Your brighter lights do shew

May Youth and Pleasure eu' flow.

But let your State, the while,

Be fixed as the Isle.

*Chorus So all that see your Beauties shew
May know the Elysian Fields are here.*

Echo. Th' Elysian feilds are here.

Echo. Elysian feilds are here.

The end.

